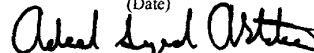


JC05 Rec'd PCT/PTO 0 6 FEB 2001  
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	:	Katsumata et al.	)	Group Art Unit Unknown
			)	
Appl. No.	:	PCT/JP00/02785	)	I hereby certify that this correspondence and all
			)	marked attachments are being deposited with
Filed	:	April 27, 2000	)	the United States Postal Service as first-class
			)	mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant
			)	Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C.
			)	20231, on
For	:	NOVEL PLASMID VECTOR	)	<u>February 6, 2001</u>
			)	(Date)
			)	
Examiner	:	Unknown	)	<u>Adeel S. Akhtar, Reg. No. 41,394</u>
			)	

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-captioned application as follows.

Please amend the claims as indicated below, and as reflected in the appended replacement claim pages.

4. (Amended) The plasmid vector according to **[any one of]** claim[s] 1 **[to 3]**, wherein the plasmid vector includes a region formed by two LTRs joined together, and both of the DNA segments (D2) and (D3) are situated within the region formed by the two LTRs joined together.